

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 6330

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG

SUBJECT: SECRET CLAUSE IN INDO-BANGALEE FRIENDSHIP TREATY

REF: NEW DELHI 16964

1. THE EXISTENCE OF A SECRET CLAUSE IN THE INDO-BANGALEE FRIENDSHIP TREATY WHICH WOULD "PROVIDE THE INDIAN ARMY ACCESS TO BANGLADESH IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES" HAS BEEN RUMORED SINCE THE TREATY WAS CONCLUDED. THE MOST FREQUENTLY SUGGESTED "CIRCUMSTANCE" IS A REQUEST FOR HELP FROM THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE ORDER SHOULD INTERNAL SECURITY DETERIORATE AND THE BDG LOSE THE ABILITY TO IMPOSE ITS AUTHORITY.

2. THE STRENGTH OF BELIEF IN THE EXISTENCE OF THE SECRET CLAUSE IS IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO THE DEGREE OF ANY ONE BANGALEE'S ANTIPATHY TOWARD INDIA. THUS, THOSE WHO FEAR AND/OR HATE INDIANS ARE FIRM BELIEVERS WHILE THOSE WHO MAY VALUE INDIAN FRIENDSHIP REMAIN TO BE PERSUADED. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANYTHING CONCRETE, FIALKOVSKY'S ACCOUNT GIVES MORE CREDIBILITY TO THE RUMORS THAN ANYTHING ELSE WE HAVE SEEN.

CHESLAW

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